

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)      A telecommunication network comprising:  
at least one radio access network,  
a core network, and  
at least one terminal device,  
          wherein said core network includes at least one gateway device, ~~and~~  
          wherein said core network includes at least one serving network control device  
configured to serve the at least one radio access network and provide serving functions  
including to provide call setup and call control functions, and further functions and  
configured to control said at least one gateway device by transmitting a control information to  
the gateway device,  
          wherein the gateway device is non-serving,  
          wherein said radio access network is directly connected to the gateway device  
via a first interface,  
          wherein a second interface is connected between the network control device  
and the gateway device, the control information being transmitted from the network control  
device to the gateway device via said second interface,  
          wherein said telecommunication network is configured to route user data  
directly, without being transmitted through the network control device, between said radio  
access network and said at least one gateway device via said first interface, achieving  
substantial separation of a control plane from a user plane; and  
          wherein the gateway device is configured to provide conversion between  
audio signals carried on telephone circuits and data packets carried over the Internet or other  
packet networks.

2. (Previously Presented)      A telecommunication network according to claim 1,  
wherein said first interface is connected directly from said radio access network to said  
gateway device.

3. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said second interface is connected to said gateway device.

4. CANCEL.

5. (Original) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said user data comprises real-time data.

6. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 5, wherein said user data comprises at least one of speech, audio, and video data.

7. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 6, wherein said user data is transmitted using a real time protocol.

8. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said second interface is adapted to use a signaling user part protocol.

9. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said second interface is adapted to use a media gateway control protocol.

10. CANCELLED.

11. (Original) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said user data is routed via a packet network.

12. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 11, wherein said packet network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

13. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 11, wherein said packet network is an internet protocol network.

14. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said control information is transmitted via a time division multiplexing network.

15. (Original) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said control information is transmitted via a packet network.

16. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 15, wherein said packet network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

17. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 15, wherein said packet network is internet protocol network.

18. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said telecommunication network is part of a universal mobile telecommunication system.

19. (Previously Presented) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said network control device is a mobile switching center.

20. (Original) A telecommunication network according to claim 1, wherein said first interface is an Iu interface.

21. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:  
routing user data via a radio access network to a non-serving gateway device of a core network having at least one serving network control device that serves the radio access network, wherein the user data is routed directly, without being transmitted through

the network control device, between said radio access network and said gateway device via a first interface so that there is substantial separation of a control plane from a user plane, and wherein the core network also has a second interface connected between the network control device and the gateway device; and

controlling said gateway device by transmitting control information from said network device to said gateway device via a second interface;

wherein said radio access network is directly connected to the gateway device via the first interface,

wherein the network control device provides serving functions including call setup and call control functions, and

wherein the gateway device provides conversion between audio signals carried on telephone circuits and data packets carried over the Internet or other packet networks.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein said control information is supplied via said second interface to said radio access network, and subsequently the control information is supplied together with said user data, via said first interface, to said gateway device.

23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein said control information is supplied via a network control device.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein a signaling user part protocol is used in said second interface.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21, wherein a media gateway control protocol is used in said second interface.

26. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein said first interface is an Iu interface.

27. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising:

a first interface configured to receive user data directly from a radio access network without being transmitted through a core network, so that there is substantial separation between a control plane and a user plane;

a second interface configured to receive control information from at least one serving network control device in the core network;

wherein the network control device is configured to serve the radio access network and is configured to provide serving functions including call setup and call control functions,

wherein said radio access network is directly connected to the apparatus via the first interface, and

wherein the apparatus is a non-serving gateway device configured to provide conversion between audio signals carried on telephone circuits and data packets carried over the Internet or other packet networks.

28. CANCELLED.

29. (Previously Presented) The gateway device of claim 27, wherein said user data comprises real-time data.

30. (Previously Presented) The gateway device of claim 27, wherein said user data comprises at least one of speech, audio, and video data.

31. (Currently Amended) Apparatus comprising:

first means, for receiving user data directly from a radio access network without being transmitted through a core network, so that there is substantial separation between a control plane and a user plane,

second means, for receiving control information from at least one serving network control device in the core network;

wherein the network control device is configured to serve the radio access network and is configured to provide serving functions including call setup and call control functions,

wherein said radio access network is directly connected to the apparatus via the first means, and

wherein the apparatus is a non-serving gateway device configured to provide conversion between audio signals carried on telephone circuits and data packets carried over the Internet or other packet networks.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said user data comprises real-time data.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein said user data comprises at least one of speech, audio, and video data.